

WHAT'S *New*

in the Metropolitan Police Department



*A weekly update for residents, visitors,
and workers in the District of Columbia*

Friday, January 9, 2004

MPDC PARTICIPATES IN "PROJECT CHILD SAFE" FREE GUN LOCK DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM

Beginning this week, registered firearms owners in DC can receive free gun locks from the Metropolitan Police Department, under a national program designed to raise awareness of firearms safety and the responsible storage of weapons. The National Shooting Sports Foundation has partnered with the MPDC to distribute 9,400 free gun locks in Washington, DC, as part of the national Project ChildSafe initiative. Project ChildSafe is funded by a \$50 million grant from the US Department of Justice and is administered nationally by the NSSF, a trade association for the firearms and recreational shooting sports industry. The program will provide nearly 20 million free gun locks and firearms safety educational materials to individuals and families in all 50 states, the five US territories and the District of Columbia. In DC, the free gun locks are being distributed by the MPDC's Firearms Registration Section, which is located in Room 3077 of Police Headquarters, 300 Indiana Avenue, NW. DC residents who come to register rifles, shotguns and other permitted firearms will be given a free gun lock at the time of registration. In addition, residents who have previously registered a firearm may visit the Firearms Registration Section to receive a free gun lock; gun owners should bring proof of registration.

① Learn more about Project ChildSafe by calling the Firearms Registration Section at (202) 727-4275, or by visiting:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/comm/childsafes.htm>

① Details about the national Project ChildSafe initiative can be found at:
<http://www.projectchildsafes.com>

MPDC RETURNS TO "ELEVATED" (YELLOW) TERRORISM ALERT

In conjunction with the Department of Homeland Security's decision to lower the National Threat Level from Orange (high) to Yellow (elevated), the MPDC has reduced its own emergency response level from Orange to Yellow as well. The MPDC has a five-level emergency response system that is similar to the color-coded, federal system. When the terrorism threat level was raised to Orange on December 21, the MPDC activated its Joint Operations Command Center (JOCC), including the network of Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) cameras that are mounted primarily in the downtown area of the District. Three additional cameras were also activated during the latest Orange alert. With the return to a Yellow alert, the MPDC deactivated the JOCC at approximately 12:30 pm, on Friday, January 9. The Department also turned off all of its CCTV cameras at that time. While the threat level has been reduced, the MPDC continues to work closely with federal and local agencies in the area and to maintain vigilance around critical installations during regular patrols. Residents are also encouraged to remain aware of their surroundings and to immediately call 9-1-1 if they observe a suspicious package or activity.

① For more information on the MPDC's general homeland security preparations, as well as links to other useful emergency preparedness resources, click on:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/family/emergencypreparedness.shtml>

① Learn more about the MPDC's use of Closed Circuit Television (CCTV), including current camera locations, at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/comm/CCTV.shtml>

TRAFFIC FATALITIES INCREASED 36 PERCENT IN 2003

After reaching a low of 50 in 2002, the number of people killed in traffic crashes in DC increased 36 percent last year, to a total of 68 fatalities. The 2003 figure was still slightly below the 2001 total of 71, but was higher than the 10-year average of 61 between 1994 and 2003. The 68 people killed last year included 18 pedestrians, along with 38 drivers and 12 vehicle passengers. September was the deadliest month on DC roads during 2003, with nine traffic fatalities; there were eight fatalities each in May and August. Once again, speed contributed to more traffic fatalities in 2003 than did any other single contributing factor. Speed was the primary factor in 21 fatalities last year, and was a secondary factor in another 11 fatalities. Eleven of last year's traffic fatalities involved red-light running. And in 12 of the 18 pedestrians fatalities, a pedestrian violation was a contributing factor. Two of last year's traffic fatalities were attributed to distracted driving (technically, "failure to pay full time and attention").

SPOTLIGHT ON...MPDC'S DOMESTIC VIOLENCE UNIT

The MPDC takes very seriously the problem of domestic violence in our city. That's why the Department created the Domestic Violence Unit to serve as a liaison among the Metropolitan Police Department, the US Attorney's Office, other law enforcement agencies, victim service agencies, victim advocates, and the community in the Washington, DC area. In addition to conducting ongoing community outreach and education, the unit helps to supervise the Domestic Violence Investigators assigned to each of the seven police districts and officers who work in DC's Domestic Violence Intake Centers. A unit within the MPDC's Special Services Command, the Domestic Violence Unit also provides training for MPDC officers and investigators. As part of its community outreach efforts, the Domestic Violence Unit has published a guide to domestic violence in DC, including information about the problem itself and the resources available for victims.

NEWS & NOTES

New Superintendent of Detectives. Chief Ramsey this week promoted Michael Anzallo from captain to commander and placed him in charge of the MPDC's Office of the Superintendent of Detectives. A 14-year MPDC veteran, Anzallo will oversee Department detectives, including the Violent Crimes Branch which Anzallo headed previously. Details at <http://www.mpd.org/blue/news.asp?sid=2508>.

MPDC to Support Presidential Primary Election. On Tuesday, January 13, the MPDC will provide support to the Presidential Primary election in DC, with MPDC members providing security for Board of Elections and Ethics vehicles and members collecting ballot boxes and giving special attention to polling locations across the city. Individuals who witness irregularities at the polls should call the BOEE at (202) 727-2575; criminal activity around polling locations should be reported to 9-1-1. Details on the primary are at <http://www.dcboee.org/index.shtm>.

GREAT Graduation. Dozens of DC school children who have recently completed the Gang Resistance Education and Training (GREAT) program will hold a graduation and celebration on Sunday, January 11, at the Renaissance Hotel in downtown DC. Details at <http://www.mpd.org/blue/news.asp?sid=2513>.

Martin Luther King Day Closings. In observance of Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday, most administrative offices of the MPDC's will be closed on Monday, January 19. Police patrols, emergency communications and other essential operations will be fully staffed.

- ① Up-to-date statistics on traffic fatalities in DC are available at: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/traffic/trstats.shtm>
- ① To help combat the problem of distracted driving, the DC Council this past week approved a bill that would ban drivers from talking on hand-held cell phones, and engaging in other distractions, while driving in the District. Mayor Williams has indicated he will sign the law, which would take effect this summer.
- ① For traffic safety tips from the MPDC, click on: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/traffic/traffic.shtm>
- ① To obtain a copy of the guide, contact Lieutenant Angela Douglas, Domestic Violence Unit coordinator, at (202) 727-7137. Or view the guide online at: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/about/units/dvu/dvu.shtm>
- ① For a comprehensive list of domestic violence resources in DC, go to: http://mpdc.dc.gov/about/units/dvu/dv_resources.shtm

DATA BOX

Homicides (as of 1/9/04)

- 2003: 8
- 2002: 6
- % Change: +33.3%

Adult Arrests (week end. 1/3/04)

- Total: 698
- Drugs: 118
- Motor Vehicle Theft: 16
- Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 22

Firearm Recoveries (as of 1/6/04)

- January 29
- 2003 Total: 1,982

Traffic Fatalities (as of 1/9/04)

- 2004: 2
- 2003: 2
- % Change: Unchanged

Information, ideas, or comments about this service? Send an e-mail to **KEVIN MORISON**, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at kevin.morison@dc.gov. Would you like to have this information e-mailed to you? Just go to our Website and register with **Crimereports.com**.

mpdc.dc.gov